Fencing of Assam Border

851. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan to fence the Assam border is under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps proposed to check ISI menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Fencing of 152.3 kms of Assam-Bangladesh Border has been sanctioned. About 140 kms of the fencing has been completed as on 31.10.1999. Fencing of additional 71.5 kms of Assam-Bangladesh border is scheduled in IInd phase.

(c) Other measures taken by the Government to check ISI menace include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outpost, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the reiverine border, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments. State Governments have also been sensitised about ISI activities and advised to be vigilant in the matter.

ISI Activities in Coastal Gujarat

852. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV SHANKAR DAVE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISI is active in the western region of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to curb the activities of ISI in the Western Coastal area of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Certain instances of suspectd involvement of Pak ISI in the Western region of the country particularly Gujarat and Rajasthan have come

to notice. Indo-Pak border adjoining the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat is witnessing infiltration of arms/explosives/narcotics from across the border indicating involvement of Pak-ISI.

(c) Joint Coastal Patrolling (JCP) is conducted involving Navy, Police and Customs while Aerial Patrolling is done by Coast Guard. Patrolling has been stepped up by BSF, in creek areas of Kutch district. Besides, a Nodal Committee for coordination and sharing of information/intelligence which includes representatives of State/ Central security organisations including Armed Forces and Para Military Forces also meets regularly to discuss border security related matters. In addition, survey work for fencing in land borders in Kutch and Banas Kantha Sectors of Indo-Pak border has also been completed.

Killings by UJC in Jammu and Kashmir

853. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the so called United Jehad Council (UJC), an umbrella organisation of 14 militant outfits in Jammu & Kashmir, killed a People's Democratic Party activist and injured another when unidentified militants attacked a vehicle carrying them on August 29, 1999 in South Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether the UJC had warned the people of Jammu & Kashmir against participating in the recent general elections to the Lok Sabha; and

(c) the number of such incidents involving militants perpetrating murders and deaths of innocent civilians during electioneering in the State and the steps taken to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) According to inputs available with us unidentified militants attacked a vehicle carrying People's Democratic Party (PDP) activists on 29th August 1999, in which one Mustaq Ahmed Wani, PDP activist was killed and another Gh Mohd. Bhat was seriously injured.

(b) Militant outfits including Hizb-Ul-Mujahideen and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen which are constituents of United Jehad Council had warned the people against participating in elections.